

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 SSO-00 CU-02 /066 W

----- 046962

P 041450Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4857

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 03

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EJNO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (HUNTER, SMITH)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS: PLANNED CONTINGENCY STATEMENT BY
STEINER

1. IN VIEW POSSIBILITY THAT NEXT FEW DAYS FLIGHTS FROM NAIROBI
WILL BRING MEMBERS OF PRESS CORPS DESIROUS OF COVERING STEINER
MISSION
HERE, STEINER HAS PREPARED AND PLANS IF ASKED TO ISSUE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

2. QTE: AS YOU KNOW I AM HERE, REPRESENTING THE PARENTS OF THE
KIDNAPPED AMERICAN STUDENTS AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN PURSUIT
OF THE OBJECTIVE WE ALL SHARE: THE SAFE AND PROMPT RETURN OF THESE
THREE YOUNG PEOPLE. I AM DOING SO ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS AND HAVE
NO OTHER OBJECTIVE. WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THAT OBJECTIVE
I WILL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE, BUT I MUST
RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION IF THERE IS
ANY

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CHANCE THAT SUCH AN ANSWER WILL JEOPARDIZE THESE EFFORTS.

IN

WORKING IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. EMBASSY. THE OPERATING ASSUMPTION THAT UNDERLIES MY
PRESENCE HERE IS THAT SOME FORM OF DIALOGUE MUST BE
ESTABLISHED-- AND THE SOONER THE BETTER--WITH THE STUDENT'S
CAPTORS AS A FIRST STEP IN SECURING THEIR RELEASE. TO THAT
END, IT HAS SEEMED CONVENIENT TO TRY AND LET WORD OF MY

PRESENCE IN BUJUMBURA REACH THE OTHER SIDE. IT IS OUR HOPE
THAT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF MY PRESENCE, OR IN SOME OTHER WAY,
THE CAPTORS WILL NOW INDICATE HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE TO OPEN A
DIALOGUE. SUCH INDICATION HAS NOT OCCURRED TO DATE.

BECAUSE THE NATURE AND METHOD OF CONTACT WHEN IT
OCCURS IS UNCERTAIN, I ASK YOUR COOPERATION IN NOT DOING ANYTHING
THAT LIMITS MY FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OR MAKES ANYONE RELUCTANT
TO APPROACH ME. FOR THAT REASON, AFTER
WE FINISH HERE TODAY,
I WILL HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY TO THE PRESS UNTIL A SUBSEQUENT
PRESS MEETING IS CALLED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. UNQTE

3. FOR NAIROBI: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY ADVANCE INDICATIONS
YOU HAVE THAT MEMBERS OF NAIROBI-BASED PRESS CORPS MAY BE
PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO BUJUMBURA.
MARK

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUJUMB00003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: I
Film Number: D750195-0398
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750694/aaaagmia.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971002
Subject: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS: PLANNED CONTINGENCY STATEMENT BY STEINER
TAGS: CASC, (HUNTER, SMITH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006